



Docket No.: 216904US2

TFW

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/006,377

Applicants: Kazunari TONAMI, et al.

Filing Date: December 10, 2001

For: IMAGE-PROCESSING DEVICE USING  
QUANTIZATION THRESHOLD VALUES ...

Group Art Unit: 2624

Examiner: LEE, TOMMY D.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**ELECTION RESPONSE**

Our credit card payment form in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCKET NO. 216904US2



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : :

KAZUNARI TONAMI ET AL. : EXAMINER: LEE, TOMMY D.

SERIAL NO: 10/006,377 : :

FILED: DECEMBER 10, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2624

FOR: IMAGE-PROCESSING DEVICE USING  
QUANTIZATION THRESHOLD VALUES ...

**ELECTION RESPONSE**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Election of Species Requirement dated January 27, 2006,  
Applicants elect with traverse Claims 1-38. Applicants make this election based on the  
understanding that Applicants are not prejudiced against filing one or more divisional  
applications that cover the non-elected claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse this Election of Species Requirement for the reason  
that MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be  
made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on  
the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or  
independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.  
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species Requirement on the  
grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious*

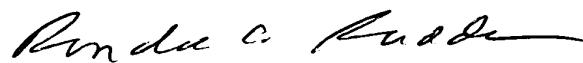
Application No. 10/006,377  
Reply to Election Requirement dated January 27, 2006

burden on the Examiner, whereas it would clearly be burdensome on Applicants to be required to file, prosecute and maintain separate applications and patents on the identified.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-64 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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